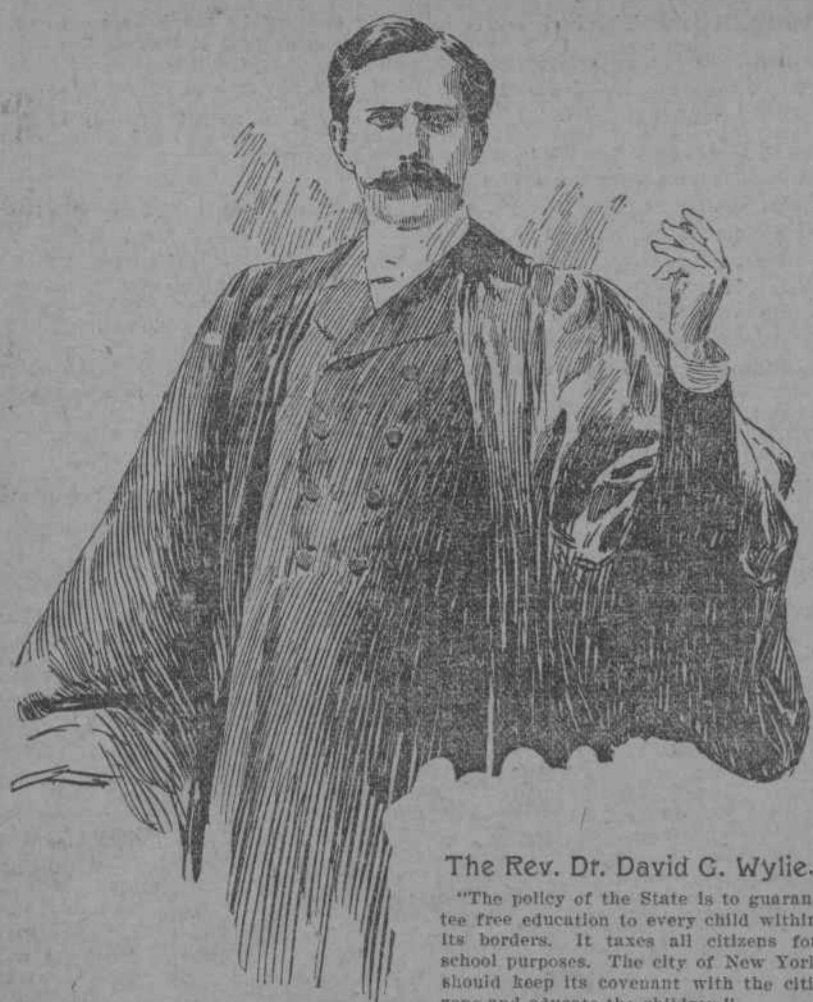


MINISTERS ON THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

Gravity of the Situation Concerning the Thousands of Excluded Children Recognized as Almost a Crime.

Prompt, Too, in Suggesting Measures of Relief, and in Depicting the Many Moral Perils That Are Menacing on Every Hand.

One Clergyman Suggests That the Armories Might Be Used as School Rooms, Another Declares That Good Government Is Endangered by the Existing Condition of Affairs.



The Rev. Dr. David C. Wylie.

"The policy of the State is to guarantee free education to every child within its borders. It taxes all citizens for school purposes. The city of New York should keep its covenant with the citizens and educate the children."

CLERGYMEN of this city are thoroughly aroused to the importance of the school question and the sad fact that nearly fifty-five thousand children have no place in which to study. And the clergy are not only prompt in censuring city officials to whom they attach the blame for the existing conditions, but they also suggest certain remedies of relief. That so many little ones should be deprived of means of obtaining an education, it is urged by one, is "little short of a crime." "Use the armories," recommends another. The gravity of the situation is clearly depicted, the need of immediate action emphasized.

IT IS A GRAVE MORAL INJURY

The Rev. S. Parkes Cadman on the Exclusion of Children from the Schools.

"It is lamentable," said the Rev. S. Parkes Cadman, of the Central Metropolitan Temple, "that in a great city which aspires to be the eye of the Western world our schools should be so continually insufficient in their provisions for the children requiring them. And now, to add to the grievance, thousands of children are prevented attendance at school because some of the buildings we do possess are unprepared to receive them."

"I regard this as a grave injury morally to the children thus thrown into forbidden pursuits, and also to the present and future welfare of society. The educational loss is heavy, but it is the least part of such a mischief. As we have known, men who on strike, and tasting the sweets of idleness, never wish to work again, it may be predicted that many of these children will acquire habits during this fall because of enforced non-attendance which can only be eradicated painfully, if at all."

"Why cannot Mr. Jasper and his associates provide temporary places for these children? Surely, halls are abundant, and the boys and girls should be gathered and instructed, if only to avoid demoralization."

WHY NOT USE THE ARMORIES?

Discussion of the School Question by the Central Labor Union.

The question of how the army of children who have been crowded out of the public schools are to be educated started a hot discussion at the meeting of the Central Labor Union yesterday. The subject was brought up by Henry Meisel, of the Bartenders' Union.

"There are many armories which are vacant," he said, "and why could not unused warehouses be utilized temporarily for school purposes? I move that the secretary communicate with the Board of Education on the subject. There are plenty of teachers. It is the buildings which are lacking."

"Thousands of dollars," said Delegate Wolters, of Cigar-makers' Union No. 144, "have been expended in entertaining the Viceroy of a nation the inhabitants of which this country has passed laws to exclude. Yet here are thousands of children, who are born citizens, who have been deprived of education because there is no appropriation to build schools. Of what use are the armories, except for an odd evening for drilling purposes? Let them be utilized as schools."

Delegate McDermott, of the Plasterers' Union, made a hot speech, in which he said that the daughters of wealthy parents were more likely to get into the Normal College than the daughters of mechanics.

"We should insist upon having more school accommodations," said Delegate Armstrong, of Electrical Workers' Union No. 3.

It was decided that the secretary should write to the Board of Education and ask that steps be taken to use the armories temporarily for school purposes.

CITY'S COVENANT IS SACRED.

Free Education Is Guaranteed, Says the Rev. Dr. David C. Wylie.

"What is this we hear about the public schools of New York? The schools are overcrowded! That is a sad and deplorable fact, for which somebody is responsible. But this is not all; how the worst. Many parents can find no place at all for their children in our schools. That is too bad! That is a shame upon our civilization! We all know that there is not room for the pupils. Only yesterday a lady of good family informed me that she could not enter her little girl in one of the schools on the West Side. There are hundreds, and possibly thousands, in the same sad position." The Rev. Dr. David C. Wylie, of the Scotch Presbyterian Church, said that yesterday.

"But is not our city rich? Is it not populous? Is it not progressive? Is it both populous and rich; but not progressive in

matters of public education. If it were, there would be room for all the children of school age.

"It is not only 'too bad,' it is all wrong. The policy of the State is to guarantee free education to every child within its borders. It taxes all citizens for school purposes. The city of New York should keep its covenant with the citizens and educate the children."

The city of New York should

keep its covenant with the citizens and

educate the children, or else the State

should relieve citizens from the burden of

the school tax.

"Our citizens should call upon the State

to keep its contract. Either give us room

and good teachers, or refund our money.

Certainly, a fair proposition.

"How can we account for the lack of

room? Why are there not enough school

buildings? There are several causes. One

is the pride of local trustees. There are lo-

cations where the school buildings are not

well and possibly not needed; but the

trustees desire to keep up the school to

please their pride. If the buildings and

property of schools which are not needed

were sold, the money could be put to better

use in populous neighborhoods.

"Our double-headed system of School

Board and local trustees has been powerful

for evil. It is next to impossible for two

persons to drive a horse, each holding a

separate line. So it was difficult, no doubt,

for the School Board to act in a state-

ment-like manner when their authority was

divided with local trustees. Now that our

system has been changed we have a right

to expect better things. Let the Board be

held strictly responsible for the condition of

affairs.

"It does seem that there should be no

great difficulty in securing adequate accom-

modation for all children, when we remember

that the school bill of New York runs

up into the millions, and that the public

authorities have the taxing power behind

them.

"It is easy to criticize. Public officials

need public sympathy, and will get it when

duty is faithfully performed. But this is an

old cry that is heard to-day! Such a con-

dition of affairs should not long exist! There

should be more room provided, and, if no-

thing better is possible, let the authorities

secure quarters in houses and halls until

edifices are constructed. The outlook is

somewhat dark now for public, thorough,

systematic education in New York City. We

will hope it is only the darkness that pre-

cedes the dawning of a better day."

GOOD GOVERNMENT MENACE

"Terrible Weapon in the Hands of

Crime," Says the Rev.

Dr. MacArthur.

"Few things are nearer my heart than

the education of the young. There is

nothing that should more actively enlist

the energies of the authorities. That so

many thousands of children are debarred

from school is in itself sufficient proof

that there has been serious disregard of

the interests of the public. There is no

possible excuse for it. It is idle to say

that there has been lack of money, for

there is nothing for which taxpayers so

willingly pay money as for the education

of the young in the practical and pri-

mary branches.

"I do not know on whom the responsi-

bility should rest but whoever they are it

should rest upon them heavily. I have

watched with great gratification the course

that the Journal has pursued and the

vigor with which it has taken up the sub-

ject, and I hope that its efforts will be

productive of much good in awakening

the public and the authorities to a true sense

of the vital importance of this matter."

"The present condition of affairs is a

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good government. It puts a terrible weapon

in the hands of crime. When, at length,

schools shall be provided, many will have

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and distaste for the school's restrictive and

educative influences.

"It is impossible to lay too great stress

on the importance of this problem that

so unexpectedly faces us, and upon the

flagrant disregard of the rights of our

citizens in allowing it to come to such a

point. All that can be done now is to

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ONLY ONE THOUSAND OUT.

President of the School Committee of Boston Describes the Situation There.

Boston, Sept. 20.—President Paul, of the School Committee, estimates that only one thousand children are unable to obtain admission to the public schools, and he anticipates they will be cared for soon. The completion of buildings now in course of construction and of the repairs on several of the old school houses will, he said, with the rooms rented outside, provide for all applicants.

Construction work on new buildings is being pushed. Within three weeks the Roger Clapp school, in Harvard street, Roger Clapp school, in Hancock street, and the Gilbert Stewart school, in Richmond street, Dorchester, will be finished. The addition to the Bowdoin school, in the West End, is practically completed.

A new eight-room primary school in Robinson street, Dorchester, and another of ten rooms in South Hewitt street, Ros-

ton, will be ready for occupancy in a few days.

The standard of our public schools ought to be so high that the best people of the city would desire to send their children into them for life's preparation. If they could be brought about and maintained, I believe that much of the hue and cry about the classes and their inequality would be silenced. It is lamentable to think that there are so many thousands of children in our city unprovided with proper places for receiving instruction. Vast injury will result if this condition is not quickly changed."

SCHOOLS MAKE THE NATION.

They Are the Bulwarks of Our Liberties, Says the Rev. Madison C. Peters.

"The American public school is the great assimilating organ of the body politic. Upon it, more than anything else in this country, must we depend for Americanizing a vast foreign element."

"Our public schools not only make our men, but they make our nation. Statistics show that our criminals and paupers, the explosive element of our society, come from the corners in which the influence of the public school does not exercise its force."

"The acknowledged bulwarks of our liberties are our public schools. The founders of this Republic wisely identified popular education with our nation's welfare. Congress as early as 1787 ordered that schools and the increase of education should be forever encouraged, and Washington in his first message said: 'Knowledge is the sure basis of public happiness,' and in his farewell address he said: 'The preservation of our institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge is an object of primary importance.'"

"In no part of the country is there so urgent a need for public schools as in this city, where the inhabitants are remote and alien from our language, institutions and

of the young in the practical and primary branches.

"I do not know on whom the responsibility should rest but whoever they are it should rest upon them heavily. I have watched with great gratification the course that the Journal has pursued and the vigor with which it has taken up the subject, and I hope that its efforts will be productive of much good in awakening the public and the authorities to a true sense of the vital importance of this matter."

"The present condition of affairs is a menace that strikes at the foundation of good government. It puts a terrible weapon in the hands of crime. When, at length, schools shall be provided, many will have passed the age at which their parents would be willing to let them attend, and many will have acquired only a contempt and distaste for the school's restrictive and educative influences."

"It is impossible to lay too great stress on the importance of this problem that so unexpectedly faces us, and upon the flagrant disregard of the rights of our citizens in allowing it to come to such a point. All that can be done now is to firmly insist that not a single further unnecessary hour shall be lost in remedying the evil that should never have been allowed to exist."

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